The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Science, when well digested, is nothing but good sense and reason.—Stanislaus.

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COMMUNISTS CAN'T "FIT IN" TRADE UNIONS

If every organized worker understood the philosophy and tactics of Communists, no trade union door would be open even to a suspected Bolshevy.

Bolsheys stand for revolution. Their party organization makes it possible for a highly disciplined handful of revolutionists to inculcate their ideals among those who are moved by high-pressure propaganda.

The Bolsheys are not interested in improved working conditions. Strikes, to them, are merely an opportunity for propaganda.

The Bolsheys have a secret contempt for trade unions that would raise wages, shorten hours and prolong life. In unions where Bolshey sentiment is at a low ebb, a careful policy is first adopted. Each group adjusts their tactics in the unions to the development of revolutionary sentiment.

There is no point on which the trade unionist and the Bolshey can agree. One believes in an expanding democracy; the other is committed to rulership from above.

One believes in making every day a better day for wage workers; the other scorns these efforts and considers strikers but pawns for his revolution purpose. His mental attitude is identical to German militarists who treat labor as cannon fodder.

The man who talks of mutuality of interests between trade unionists and Communists is either a knave or a sentimentalist. The latter is trapped by the revolutionist's honeyed plea: "Oh, you must be liberal—we are agreed as to objectives, but not as to policies."

If this were true, one could claim the same mutuality between defenders of the Declaration of Independence and Soviet Russia and Mussolini.

Workers face continued trouble with the Bolsheys if they ignore trade union principles. Then they can be swayed by appeals to their emotions.

If the organized workers use their reasoning power, they will calmly ask: "What is this fellow's objective?"

If workers keep their feet on the ground they will discover that trade unionism is considered a pawn by the Bolsheys, whose contempt for democracy is the same as in Russia and Italy.

The trade union should be held to its purpose. It should not be a hatchery for revolution. It should not be a haven for wild men who whine for free speech as an excuse to bore from within.

FOES OF LAW-MAKING BRANCH REBUFFED BY SUPREME COURT

Washington, Jan. 29.—The recent decision by the United States Supreme Court wherein it was held that Congress has the power to summon witnesses, will have a tendency to silence those who attempt to ridicule Congress when an investigating committee is appointed by Federal lawmakers.

When Congress would expose wrong, the cry of "interference with business" and "snoopers" is heard. The Supreme Court gives notice to these privilege protectors that investigation is often necessary that appropriate legislation may be passed.

"We are of opinion that the power of inquiry—with process to enforce it—is an essential and appropriate auxiliary to the legislative function," the court said.

"In actual legislative practice the power to secure needed information by such means has long been treated as an attribute to the power to legislate.

"Experience has taught that mere requests for such information often are unavailing, and also information which is volunteered is not always accurate or complete; so some means of compulsion are essential to obtain what is needed. All this was true before and when the Constitution was framed and adopted."

The case was based on the refusal of Mal S. Daugherty, Ohio banker, to appear before a Senate committee that was investigating the conduct of his brother, Harry M. Daugherty, while Attorney General.

The Ohio man's arrest was ordered by the committee, but the unwilling witness was released by the Federal court at Cincinnati.

In setting aside the lower court's decision, the Supreme Court quoted with approval this statement from Senator Fessenden of Maine, on the floor of the Senate, in 1859:

"Where will we stop? Stop, I say, just at the point where we have gone far enough to accomplish the purposes for which we were created, and these purposes are defined in the Constitution. What are they? The great purpose is legislation. Well, sir, proposing to legislate, we want information on certain subjects. Suppose the persons whom we ask will not give it to us; what then? Have we not power to compel him to come before us? Is this power lost to us?"

CATTLE LEADS LABOR IN SOCIAL STATUTES

Cheyenne, Wyo., Jan. 29.—A "witty" member of the State Legislature who insists that labor has too many bills at each session of the legislature, is reminded by the Wyoming Labor Journal that the number does not equal demands presented by Wyoming live stock interests.

"We are not objecting to live stock legislation, but a State that can afford to place such protection around these interests should be able to care for workers," the labor paper said.

AUTOCRATIC METHODS UNFIT FOR UNCLE SAM

Washington, Jan. 29.—America can not afford to play the part of an imperialist autocrat with Latin American countries, writes President Green, in American Federationist, February issue.

"The people of the United States believe they have a right to determine the constitutional form of their own laws, consequently they must accord the same right to other nations. Should there be a dispute as to fact, in what better way can such a dispute be settled than by an arbitral tribunal? The fact that one nation is weaker than the other puts an additional test upon the quality of justice of the arbitral tribunal. If the weaker nation makes the proposal of arbitration to the stronger, can the latter refuse without serious damage to its prestige and ideals?

"Citizens of the United States firmly believe in the principle of self-determination for nations. It is high time to reach some understanding of distinction between intervention and protection of the rights of American citizens and their property. These purposes permit wide latitude. Armed intervention which may sometimes include the special interests of questionable investments. There is need for clarification of policies in the Pan-American sphere. An alternative course to arbitration is a conference of Pan-American countries to agree upon methods and agencies for deciding upon international relations and business.

"If we would prevent war we must deal constructively with the causes which create war.

"American labor hopes our Government will not play the part of an imperialist autocrat in its relations with Latin American countries, but will prove, by practice and precept, an advocate of the ideals of self-government."

CONFESSION ON SACCO POSTPONES EXECUTION

Boston, Jan. 29.—Governor Fuller has granted a respite of the death sentence of Celestino Madeiros convicted of murder of a bank cashier in 1924.

Madeiros confessed that he was present at the time of the robbery and murders in South Braintree in 1920 for which Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were convicted. Madeiros declared that neither of the men was in the gang.

REOPEN 48-HOUR FIGHT

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 29.—Bills carrying out Governor Smith's recommendation for a 48-hour week for women and minors in industry and the creation of a minimum wage board were introduced in the Legislature by Assemblyman Hamill of New York City.

Similar proposals have been defeated in past sessions by Governor Smith's political opponents. The lawmakers will probably take no action on the bills until the State Industrial Survey Commission makes its report, about February 15.

Women's Health Most Important

New York, Jan. 29.—Placing economic considerations above the health of women was denounced by Dr. Louis I. Harris, Commissioner of Health, in favoring shorter hours for women workers before the State Industrial Survey Commission.

Opponents of the 48-hour week insist that business competition demands a longer work week.

"Medical men encounter constantly the economic objection when they seek improvement of industrial conditions and we are utterly impatient," Dr. Harris said. "The fact alone that the health of women is suffering is sufficient to overcome any economic argument that may be presented."

Surveys of the work in which he examined thousands of women in industry convinced him that women are more susceptible to fatigue, and that when fatigued they are more likely to contract diseases, said Dr. Harris. No yardstick could be used in setting a general ideal working schedule, he added, some labor being as strenuous or confining as to make two hours a good day.

"I might advocate a 40-hour 4-hour week," he said, "but industries vary. Medical men, though, know that while women consider themselves equal to men politically they are not equal biologically, and anything done to remove the factor of fatigue will yield returns in benefits to health."

UNION WANTS RECORD HOW REDS USED MONEY

New York, Jan. 29.—Following an expose of Communists in their local affiliates and mass meetings that protested against the Bolshevy, officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union are demanding an accounting of $3,500,000 spent by the Communist dominated union during the recent strike.

"These tremendous sums of money spent by the Communists in a strike that was unnecessary and which was called by them against the advice of the international solely for political purposes will have to be accounted for," said President Sigman. "The cloakmakers and dressmakers who have gotten rid of these Communist misfits are entitled to know who squandered millions of their hard-earned dollars."

CLOSED-DOOR TALKS OPPOSED BY WALSH

Washington, Jan. 29.—Senator Walsh of Massachusetts is opposed to the Senate practice of discussing presidential appointments behind closed doors.

"Government by bureaucracy, altogether too dominant at Washington, will become even more powerful unless the public is fully informed of the methods employed to control government bureaus," the Senator said.

LOW WAGE GIRLS STRIKE

East St. Louis, Ill., Jan. 29.—Women and girls employed in the 5 and 10 cent Kresge stores of this city are on strike. Some of the girls are paid $5 a week.

Jewish Churchmen Stand With Unions; Reject Labor Injunction Principle

Cleveland, Ohio, Jan. 29.—The national convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations rejected the labor injunction theory when it distinguished between labor power and property.

"A man's labor is his very life, and constitutes his primary service to society; it is not a commodity to be bought or sold in the market," the rabbis declared.

This attitude with repeated declarations by organized workers that labor is inseparable from life and can not be classed with commodities that are the result of that labor.

The rabbis further declared that "human rights take precedence over the rights of property," and that "the recognition of the principle of mutual service through the performance of economic function is of first importance to our social philosophy."

Monroe Doctrine Not Intended To Protect Foreign Investors

Washington, Jan. 29.—The Monroe Doctrine is intended to protect this continent against the "divine right" of kings and not foreign investments in Central and South America, said Congressman Connally in the House.

The Monroe Doctrine is a doctrine not of aggression against the South American republics, but is based fundamentally on the theory of "self-defense for the United States," the Texas lawmaker said.

"How did it arise? After the Napoleonic wars in Europe, the Czar of Russia, the King of Prussia and the Austrian Emperor formed themselves into a league for the protection of monarchy and for the suppression of revolution and liberal movements all over the world. It came to be known as the Holy Alliance because it was formed to support the 'divine right' of kings. After the Holy Alliance came into existence, Spain conceived the idea of reconquering South and Central American republics, and appealed to the Holy Alliance to give her aid and comfort.

"Great Britain was looking after world trade and had built up considerable commerce with the Central and South American republics. She realized that if Spain reconquered those territories her trade and dominion in those countries would be seriously impaired.

"Mr. Rush, the American minister entered into conversations with British minister as to how that movement could be thwarted. It finally resulted in a declaration by President Monroe in December, 1823, denying the right of any European power to establish or extend that system to any part of the Western Hemisphere, as a danger to our own security.

"It follows, of course, as a secondary consideration, that it operates as a safeguard to the republics of Central and South America against European aggression in any form. The Monroe Doctrine was Intended as a protection for the South American countries, a protection of Nicaragua, as well as ourselves.

"The Monroe Doctrine has never been invoked by the United States to keep out European powers the enforcement of their just demands. The doctrine does imply that the United States will not allow any foreign power in the collection of debts to acquire any territory or in anywise establish any portion of its system on the Western Hemisphere."

EMPLOYERS' LOBBYISTS OPPOSED BY GOVERNOR

Lansing, Mich., Jan. 29.—The practice of employers using paid lobbyists at the State capitol, instead of themselves appearing, was scored by Governor Green, in his first message to the Legislature.

"These lobbyists," said Governor Green, "hang around the Legislature, meddle in things in which they have no personal interest, and generally create an unwholesome atmosphere. If some of the more notorious lobbyists put in an appearance I will call your attention to them by name."

One of the lobbyists that aroused the Governor's ire is John Lovett, so-called "manager" of the Michigan Manufacturers' Association. Prior to his inauguration, the Governor declared before a meeting of these manufacturers that he did not believe Lovett represented their views when he said $14 a week was sufficient compensation for a disabled working man.

AUSTRALIA TO SEND INDUSTRIAL PROBERS

New York, Jan. 29.—Australia is the latest country that would investigate America's system of high wages and mass production. That far-away commonwealth has appointed an industrial delegation which will visit the United States, according to a cable received by the Commissioner for Australia. Sir Littleton Groom. The probers will arrive the middle of March. The delegation consists of four representative employers, four representative employes and two women observers.

The employes' group is headed by Edward Grayndler, general secretary of the Australian Workers' Union, the largest labor organization in Australia.

OLD AGE PENSIONS URGED BY PREMIER

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 29.—An act to provide old age pensions for residents of this province has been introduced in the Legislature by Premier John Oliver.

The bill would authorize British Columbia to enter into a general scheme of old age pensions with the Dominion on a basis of payment by the Dominion quarterly of an amount equal to one-half the net sum paid during the previous quarter by British Columbia.

COAL MINERS CONVENE; WILL ADOPT SCALE

Indianapolis, Jan. 29.—The miners' constitutional convention 'opened in this city with an attendance of 1,500 delegates representing locals in the mine fields of the United States and Canada. The principal work of the convention will be to prepare a bituminous wage scale that replaces the Jacksonville agreement, which expires March 31 next.

The Jacksonville agreement was signed three years ago, but the life has been marked by shameful violations by employers. Corporations like the Pittsburgh Coal Company have ignored their pledge and have driven wages below the 1917 standard.

INJURY FUND GROWS

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 29.—The balances in Ohio's State monopoly of workmen's compensation continues to grow. Last year's balance at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, was $49,959,922.01. This is $2,304,629.77 increase over the previous year, although the largest number of claims against the fund in its history were filed.

MUSSOLINI'S TERROR GANG SUPPORTED BY PRIVILEGE

New York, Jan. 29.—War profiteers and large land owners are behind Mussolini and his terroristic gang of Black Shirts, declared Professor Gaetano Salvemini, formerly connected with the University of Florence and member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies. Since his arrest in 1925 he has been compelled to live abroad because of his political views.

Professor Salvemini spoke at a luncheon in this city. He said it was not true that Mussolini and Fascism saved Italy from Bolshevism and anarchy. There were disturbances in many strikes during the two years after the World War closed, but these were due to restlessness and were in rather than manifestations of Bolshevism.

"The worst of the crisis was over toward the end of 1920," he said, "and those who had been cowards in 1920 became apostles of terrorism in 1921.

"The march of the 8,000 Fascisti upon Rome could have been stopped if the regular army concentrated in that city had acted. It was not a revolution, but a coup d'etat. It was carried out by high military authorities and the war profiteers, and it was a movement not against Bolshevism, but against the members of the Chamber of Deputies and the King, who was virtually made a prisoner. The war profiteers and big land owners subsidized the Fascisti and magistrates in the courts sentenced those who attempted to interfere.

"They stood behind the scenes, boasting that he was the author of it all. He received financial support from engineers, including American bankers, and writes articles with the skill of a demagogue.

"The Fascisti assert Mussolini has put the economic life of the country on a firm basis and that Italy was on the verge of bankruptcy and Bolshevism when the dictator appeared. This is untrue. The population has been forced to eat war bread. Last November the government could not pay interest on its short time bonds and a compulsory loan has been floated.

"Italy is governed by a minority of masters to whom everything, including assassination, is permitted. The majority of the people are slaves."

SLOGAN OF BRITISH MINERS BRINGS DISASTER TO LABOR

U. S. BUREAU FACTS REFUTE LABOR FOES

New York, Jan. 29.—As compared to a longer week, the 48-hour week for women does not decrease their wages, nor does it close occupations to them to any considerable extent. In addition to shortening the hours for women it also results in a shorter workday for men.

These conclusions were presented to the State Industrial Survey Commission by Miss Mary Anderson, director of the United States Women's Bureau, and her assistant, Miss Winslow, who gave the results of a four-month survey of women in industry.

Miss Winslow said her investigators talked with more than 800 women in Massachusetts who were working when the law went into effect. She discovered only one who had lost her position as a result of that law.

The findings of the Federal bureau contradict testimony of representatives of Massachusetts textile interests who told the commission that the textile crisis in New England is traceable to the 48-hour law for women. These witnesses claimed that mills are moving south where they can work women 56 hours and more.

Lawmakers Asked To End Child Labor

Washington, Jan. 29.

PRESIDENT GREEN has appealed to members of all State Legislatures now in session to either ratify the pending Federal child labor amendment, or in enacting their action where a State Legislature has rejected the amendment.

"This is an issue of the greatest importance to our country," President Green said. "The alarming increase in the number of children employed since the last Federal child labor law was declared unconstitutional is causing gravest concern. Many States have grown lax in the enforcement of their child labor laws, since the opinion of the Supreme Court was handed down."

MEDIATION IS FAVORED IN PORTO RICAN STRIKE

New York, Jan. 29.—Mediation of the cigarmakers' strike in Porto Rico was asked President Coolidge by a mass meeting of Porto Rican and Spanish societies, civic and political clubs and representatives of organized labor.

Governor Towner of Porto Rico and business men of the island have approached the Porto Rican-American Tobacco Company with peace proposals, but these have been rejected.

The strikers agree to accept a wage increase of $2 per thousand cigars. This increase is less than 50 per cent of total decreases the company ordered the last six years.

The Porto Rican company has purchased the Congress Cigar Company in this country, and announces that it will be possible to graduate wages for the company's manufacturing business to the United States to the extent that such control may become necessary or desirable in view of Porto Rico strike conditions."

WANT SHORTER HOURS

New York, Jan. 29.—White goods workers, affiliated to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ask employers to reduce the work week.

The union maintains that the industry is highly seasonal and that less work hours will lengthen periods of employment.

SHARK LOANS VOID; WAGES NOT PROPERTY

Jersey City, N. J., Jan. 29.—Judge Charles L. Carrick of the first district court has ruled that loans at usurious interest under the salary-buying scheme that loan sharks operate, are null and void.

The salary-buying scheme is in operation all over the country. The victim "sells" his salary at a discount and the loan shark collects at interest.

"Wages are not a commodity," said Judge Carrick. "At the date in question they were money due from a solvent debtor payable at a fixed date, however long before the date of service which is supposed to give the semblance of a purchase, in the endeavor to cover up usurious loan, is familiar to all. The law, however, regards the essential nature of the transaction, not the incidents created to give it a fictitious color.

"The plaintiffs could have had no interest in the purchase of the defendant's wages except to obtain for the money, which they gave him, a greater sum than they would be entitled to for the use of the money at the legal rate of interest."

LEATHER WORKERS WIN

Philadelphia, Jan. 29.—Leather workers win their four-month strike against the Dungan & Hood Company, manufacturers of shoe kid. The union is recognized, improved work conditions assured and all strikebreakers discharged.

Wm. E. Bryan, general president of the United Leather Workers' International Union, assisted in the settlement.

ONE STANDARD TEST TO CHECK ACCIDENTS

Washington, Jan. 29.—The one-man hour exposure to the hazards of industry is the only possible basis for a correct evaluation of the results of organized safety campaigns, said Ethelbert Stewart, United States Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

"With this as a basis," the commissioner said, "reports of the number and kind of accidents, fatal and non-fatal, and the amount of time lost from accidents will develop rates which allow comparison from year to year and show exactly whether or not the accident prevention program is accomplishing results."

LABOR WILL NOT ADOPT ARTIFICIAL POLICIES

London, England, Jan. 21.—"Workers' representatives must responsibility and without knowledge of industry manufacturing policies for our unions," said Ernest Bevin, secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, in a speech in this city.

"We have the Independent Labor Party at the moment telling us how to organize a movement," Mr. Bevin said. "Well, friends, we hold agreements for scores of trades, and whenever the time has been ripe dating of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled, all needing different adjustments, we with our knowledge of their own skill and ability, will know that you can not sit down in a conference, draw a line, and say that settles it.

"This business of the unions dealing with the adjustment of wages must be worked out inside the unions without the influence of politicians or even a suspicion of politics.

"Even if our system appears quite illogical in many cases, psychology is difficult to understand and it is wrong to attempt to plan an artificial policy or program on a union.

"The calling of general conferences either by political bodies or as a so-called wage program is an interference with the legitimate functions of the unions."

LEWIS GETS BIG VOTE IN MINERS' ELECTION

Indianapolis, Jan. 29.—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, received 173,323 votes, against 60,661 cast for John Brophy, in the referendum held on December 14, according to an official report by tellers.

Philip Murray was re-elected vice-president with a vote of 109,587, and Thomas Kennedy was retained as secretary-treasurer by a majority of 76,076.

PRIMARY LAW STANDS

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 29.—Opponents of the State primary law have failed in their first attempt to annul the act. Opposition to the primary will now take the form of compromise in the hope that the convention system will be re-established.

AUTOS KILL 6,649

Washington, Jan. 29.—The auto contingencies to hold its own as a killer of human beings. Last year the toll was 6,649 deaths in 74 large cities reporting to the Department of Commerce. The highest rate was in San Diego, with 42.4 per 100,000.